

**Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
April 12, 2005
Westin La Paloma
3800 East Sunrise Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85718
Palo Verde Room**

MINUTES OF BOARD RETREAT

Members Present-

Kurt Davis - President
Kimberly Mosher-Vice President
Mary Gifford - Superintendent's Designee
Arthur Ben-Charter School Teacher
David Hume - Business Member
Linda Parson - Business Member
Onnie Shekerjian - Public Member
Magdalena Verdugo - Charter School Operator

Members Absent

Lynne Adams - Public Member
Harvey Honyouti – Public Member
Jose Gabriel Loyola - Public Member
Senator Linda Aguirre – Advisory
Representative Ted Carpenter - Advisory
Senator John Huppenthal - Advisory

Staff Present-

Kristen Jordison-Executive Director
DeAnna Rowe-Director of Academic Affairs
Michele Diamond-Director of Govt. & Financial Affairs
Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil-Board & Business Affairs
Lee McIlroy-Research & Statistical Analyst

Meeting began at 9:09 AM

Agenda Item A: Roll Call: Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

Agenda Item B: Distribution of Charter School Board Policy Handbooks

Lee McIlroy presented the Board Policy books. The Board thanked him for his work.

Agenda Item C: Explanation of the purpose and format of the retreat – President Davis

President Davis opened the meeting with an icebreaker. The Board and staff enjoyed getting to know each other in an informal setting.

President Davis presented an overview of the purpose of the retreat. He stated the retreat was to provide an opportunity to have a broader philosophical conversation around charter schools. President Davis presented the sub-committee assignments for this year and discussed that topics from the retreat will be placed on future sub-committee agendas for consideration in full.

Agenda Item D: Discussion and presentation of materials on applicable statutes, legal terms, and charter school accountability, including current and potential policies and procedures for charter schools, and possible action in regard to any or all of the following:

- a. AZ LEARNS
- b. No Child Left Behind
- c. Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS)
- d. Dropout Rate
- e. Graduation Rate
- f. Charter Contract
- g. 1st, 2nd, 5th, & 10th year reviews
- h. Contract renewal Charter School Financial Audits & Compliance Questionnaire

The Board discussed different mechanisms and tools for measuring academic achievement. The Board further discussed such items as what are schools using internally to know where students are academically at any given moment, pre & post assessment for all charters to demonstrate progress, how to hold charter schools to the goals outlined in their charter contracts.

Agenda Item E: Discussion of and possible action on charter school accountability measures including required reports, statutory compliance, academic compliance, financial compliance, and general compliance.

The Board discussed charter school financial accountability and reporting. The Board noted that the annual financial report is an un-audited report and thus could not be utilized for accountability purposes. The Board did discuss requiring the annual financial report to be audited.

The Board discussed issues surrounding the use of the management letter. President Davis asked the staff to contemplate the use of the management letter and compliance questionnaire.

The Board discussed that the compliance questionnaire will need to be updated since the Auditor General is working on additional questions for the TAPBI programs.

The Board discussed issues of charter school financial solvency.

Agenda Item F: Discussion and possible action on applicable statutes, policies, and procedures pertinent to disciplinary options available to the Board and other matters contained in the Charter School Board Handbook. Discussion and possible action on additional

disciplinary options.

Agenda Item G: Assignment of sub-committees of the Board for 2005.

President Davis presented the assignments to the sub-committees at the beginning of the meeting.

Legislative

Arthur Ben
Mary Gifford - Chair
Kimberly Mosher
Linda Parson

Policy & Rule

Lynne Adams - Chair
Gabe Loyola
Kimberly Mosher
Magdalena Verdugo

Review, Renewal & Contracts

Harvey Honyouti
David Hume
Kimberly Mosher
Onnie Shekerjian - Chair

Agenda Item H: Discussion and possible action to forward topics related to academic accountability, financial compliance, general compliance and other matters for further review and consideration by Board approved sub-committees.

The Board forwarded the discussion of utilizing academic achievement measures, such as the AZ LEARNS labels, first year and second year sites visits, and notes of on-going concern, as a means for approving or disapproving discretionary contract amendments such as adding sites or adding grade levels. This discussion was forwarded to the Policy and Rule Sub-committee.

The Board forwarded further discussion of reviews of performance indicators, measurable academic goals, and development of a renewal process to the Review, Renewal, and Contract Sub-committee.

The Legislature Sub-committee will consider if legislative change is necessary after the other sub-committees have developed their recommendations.

The Board forwarded further discussion of the possibility of bringing settlement or consent agreements to the Board prior to Board issuing the request. The Policy and Rule sub-committee will discuss this and develop what type of issues would warrant this type of action.

The Board forwarded further discussion to the Legislative sub-committee on whether the Board should seek additional disciplinary options next year.

The Board forwarded further discussion of self funding options for the Board to the Legislative Sub-committee.

Agenda Item I: Discussion and possible action on focus and resources necessary for upcoming year

The Board discussed having the Arizona Charter School Association be placed on the monthly agenda to highlight best practices or special achievements of charter schools.

Agenda Item J: Executive Session

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03.A.2 and A.3, the Board may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the public, for legal advice concerning any item on the agenda or to review, discuss and consider records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law.

**BOARD CONVENES AN EXECUTIVE SESSION
AT 1:00 PM**

MOTION

Motion by Kurt Davis to go into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford.

**BOARD RESUMES RETREAT
AT 1:30 PM**

Motion passes unanimously

Agenda Item K: Adjournment

The retreat adjourned at approximately 2:36pm.

Signature

Date